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Exploring Family History in Saskatchewan

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Foreword

> The history of Western Canada is a gallant one. For the Canadian West, no less than its American counterpart, has had its share of leaders who stir the imagination: Mackenzie, Thompson, Selkirk, Simpson, Riel, Big Bear, Poundmaker, Tache, Lacombe, and others. But we must avoid the temptation to view the history of the West in the light of its romantic figures, for the life with which we are concerned is to be found in the teepees, in the farms, and in the towns, among those whose names are either forgotten or are to be found only in some parish register or village cemetery.

With these words, Dr. George F. G. Stanley, distinguished historian of western Canada, presented the case for social history at the 1940 annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association. Not surprisingly, they strike a responsive chord in the hearts of genealogists, confirming a truth many genealogists have instinctively grasped. In Saskatchewan it has been the ordinary folk who have provided the distinctive flavour of our history—the farmers, the railway workers, the local businessmen, the teachers, the clergy, the native people and the immigrants who have formed our communities and our institutions. At its very best, family history, by focussing on the basic unit of society, can provide a significant contribution to our understanding of this our common heritage.

Genealogy is an absorbing leisure activity, helping renew family ties, providing an introduction to distant relatives, and giving an excellent excuse for travel to places associated with the family past. It also leads the family historian into the less familiar area of archival research where inevitably one will experience the frustrations, the vagaries and the rewards of the surviving historical record. Even the most seasoned genealogist cannot entirely suppress the elation of discovering another detail about the family after a patient search. Nor does time mute the excitement which comes from reading grandfather's original homestead application, or discovering family members listed on an immigrant ship's passenger list, or listening to a tape recording of grandmother's reminiscences. As one becomes familiar with the extraordinary range of documentary materials preserved in Canada's archives, archival research becomes a lively process of exploration.

Through the publication of this guide, the Saskatchewan Archives Board hopes to assist genealogists in making effective and knowledgeable use of the documentary sources available. Our archivists are always ready to answer questions and to help guide researchers. However, by learning how records came to be created and for what purpose, the genealogist can understand the strengths and weaknesses of the different records series. From this should emerge a research strategy concentrating on the most likely sources for a particular family.

Over the years, the workshops, branch meetings, publications and the circulating library of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society have done much to encourage genealogists at all levels of expertise across the province. Mr. Robert L. Pittendrigh, current president of the society, was of considerable assistance in preparing this guide. Mr. D'Arcy Hande, a former director of the Society and a Staff Archivist with the Archives Board, has brought it through to publication. It is our hope that this guide will simplify the task and enhance the enjoyment of exploring your family's history in Saskatchewan.

Ian E. Wilson,
Provincial Archivist.

Introduction

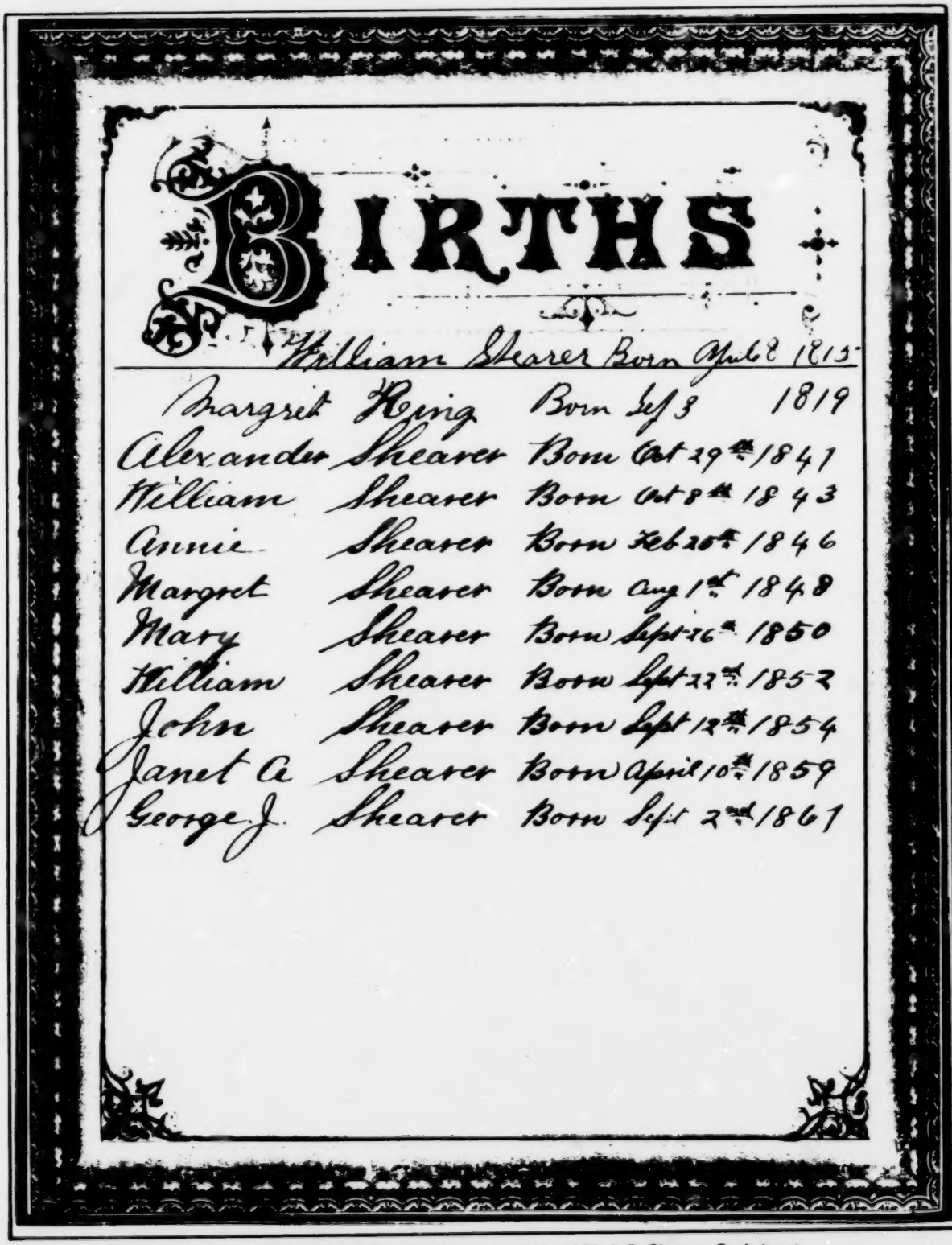
A dramatic surge of interest in researching family history in Saskatchewan has taken place in recent years, paralleling an increased awareness among the general public of history at the provincial and local levels. Like other archival institutions, records offices and libraries, the Saskatchewan Archives Board has been dealing with the increased demands of genealogists for information relating to their ancestors. This handbook is designed to answer many of the questions that we often encounter on the types, location, and value of genealogical sources available in Saskatchewan. It is our hope that the information contained in it will facilitate research into and enrich your knowledge of your family history.

The following pages discuss the types of documents that might be found within the home, as well as ideas on tapping the knowledge of other members of the family. Information is given on societies that can offer assistance and advice on methods of research. This is followed by an outline of the major genealogical sources that should be considered in compiling family history. Official sources accessible within the province are listed and described. Some suggestions are made on where to look for information when Saskatchewan sources have been exhausted.

As with any serious pastime, researching family history requires skills and knowledge that need to be learned if mistakes and much wasted time, effort and money are to be avoided. Several standard reference books on how to do genealogical research are available through your local library. Two of these are *The Canadian Genealogical Handbook* by Eric Jonasson (Winnipeg, 1978), a comprehensive guide to Canadian sources, and *Searching for Your Ancestors* by Gilbert H. Doane (New York, 1974), a classic on genealogical research methods.

An expert in the field of genealogy has said that the historian does not need to be a genealogist, but the good genealogist should also be an historian. An understanding of local and provincial history is a definite asset to good research. You should begin by familiarizing yourself with the historical development of the province through consulting general published sources like *The Saskatchewan Bibliography* by V. Arora (Regina, 1980), *Saskatchewan: A History* by J.H. Archer (Saskatoon, 1980), and the *Atlas of Saskatchewan* by J.H. Richards and K.I. Fung (Saskatoon, 1969). Many local histories dealing with particular areas in the province are available at the Saskatchewan Archives Board and through local libraries.

Increased awareness of our heritage is only one of the fringe benefits of genealogical research. Since this is a "people-oriented" hobby, you will find that your circle of friends expands and the potential for co-operation with others increases. May your family history project be a challenging and fulfilling one as you pore over the original documents that bring the past back to life.



BIRTHS

William Shearer Born April 8 1815

Margret	King	Born Sept 3	1819
Alexander	Shearer	Born Oct 29th	1841
William	Shearer	Born Oct 8th	1843
Annie	Shearer	Born Feb 20th	1846
Margret	Shearer	Born Aug 1st	1848
Mary	Shearer	Born Sept 16th	1850
William	Shearer	Born Sept 22nd	1852
John	Shearer	Born Sept 12th	1854
Janet A	Shearer	Born April 10th	1859
George J.	Shearer	Born Sept 2nd	1861

A page from the family Bible of William and Margaret Shearer (courtesy of Mr. L.R. Shearer, Saskatoon).

I. Getting Started

1. Delving Into Your Attic Archives

For beginners in genealogical research or those wishing to add biographical information to their family history projects, sources within the homes of family members are an invaluable aid. Such documentary items are often the most valuable sources to be found in the entire research project. It is important to be on the lookout for useful documents as relatives sort through their storage rooms and attics; and with each newly discovered cousin there is the potential that another attic archives can be explored.

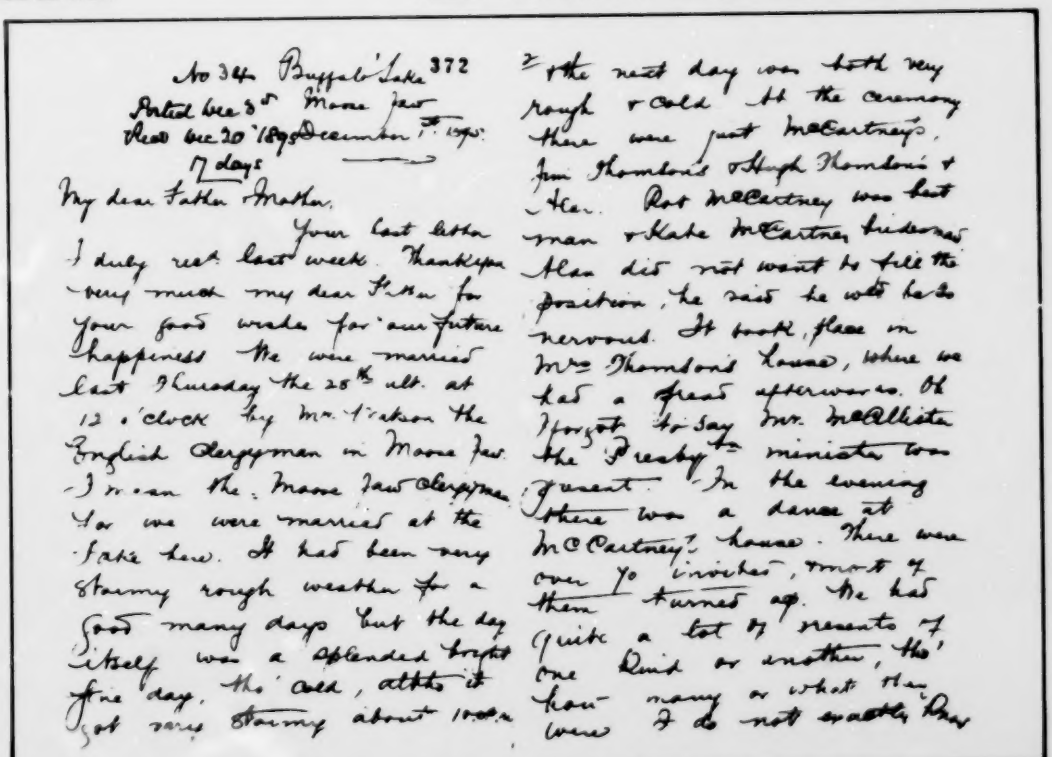
Family Bibles were common in bygone decades. Generally pages were set aside for recording important family events such as births, marriages and deaths. This section was often between the Old and New Testaments or in the last pages of the volume. Many times the Bible was also used as a place to file keepsakes and important documents, so it is important to leaf through the pages to find any of these items.

Diaries, account books, and family letters are other documents frequently kept in the home. These are contemporary sources that provide information on events as they happened. They are also the best record of the personality traits and lifestyles of those who wrote them. Other relatives with whom ancestors kept in touch over the years may be mentioned as well.

Certificates are those official documents that are kept to prove an event has taken place. Such events include births, baptisms, confirmations, initiations, graduations, memberships, citizenship, military service, marriages and deaths. These documents are usually issued by governments, churches, educational institutions, clubs and societies. Besides giving names, dates and places, certificates may provide information on parentage and other family relationships. They may also offer clues as to the social associations of an ancestor within the community.

Deeds and wills record the property of an individual. They are meant either to prove ownership or to transfer ownership to someone else. These provide valuable clues as to the residence and material well-being of the person involved. Wills can also indicate the names and addresses of relatives of which the genealogist is unaware, and they may provide unique glimpses into the personal lives of family members.

Invitations and announcements often are keepsakes that stay in the family for generations. In the past it was customary to send announcements of marriages and deaths, and in more recent times birth announcements and wedding invitations have become commonplace. These items contain valuable genealogical information.



No 34 Buffalo Lake 372
Posted Dec 3rd Moose Jaw
Rec'd Dec 20 '95 Dec 1st 1895
7 days

My dear Father & Mother,

Your last letter I duly rec'd last week. Thankyou very much my dear Father for your good wishes for our future happiness We were married last Thursday the 28th ult. at 12 o'clock by Mr. Watson the English Clergyman in Moose Jaw. I mean the Moose Jaw Clergyman for we were married at the Lake Iew. It had been very stormy rough weather for a good many days but the day itself was a splendid bright fine day, tho' cold, altho it got very stormy about 10 o'c

& the next day was both very rough & cold At the ceremony there were just McCartneys, Jim Thomsons & Hugh Thomsons & Her. Pat McCartney was best man & Kate McCartney bridesmaid Alex did not want to fill the position, he said he was to be so nervous. It took place in Mrs Thomsons house, where we had a feed afterwards. Oh I forgot to say Mr McAllister the Presby^n minister was present. In the evening there was a dance at McCartneys house. There were over 70 invited, most of them turned up. We had quite a lot of presents of one kind or another, tho' how many or what they were I do not exactly know

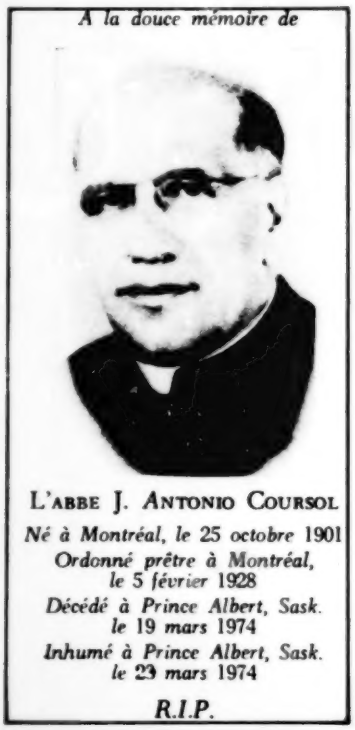
Letter from George Tuxford to his parents, December 1, 1895, George Tuxford Papers, R-418. Saskatchewan Archives Board.

Photographs, besides being valuable documents in their own right, often have useful bits of information jotted on the reverse. Names, ages, and residences of individuals are sometimes given. At the end of the last century and the beginning of this century, it was popular among studios to mount their photographs on stiff cardboard on which was printed the studio's name and address. In the case of older pictures found in family collections, these can offer clues to the residence of family members.

Family and local histories and school yearbooks are sources that may be in the family bookcase or even packed away somewhere in storage. These can provide varying amounts of information on family members and the communities in which they lived. Given the chances for typographical and editorial errors in printed items, one must be cautious in accepting the accuracy of their contents.

Newspaper clippings of births, marriage and death announcements, obituaries and stories of other events important to the family are another type of record often kept in scrapbooks or shoeboxes by an acquisitive relative. Again, the factual accuracy of newspaper accounts can leave much to be desired.

Numerous other family keepsakes may also provide clues for genealogical purposes: birthday and autograph books, embroidery samplers, and embroidered quilts, to name just a few.


A la douce mémoire de
L'ABBE J. ANTONIO COURSOL
Né à Montréal, le 25 octobre 1901
Ordonné prêtre à Montréal, le 5 février 1928
Décédé à Prince Albert, Sask. le 19 mars 1974
Inhumé à Prince Albert, Sask. le 23 mars 1974
R.I.P.

Death notice of Father J. Antonio Coursol, 1974, Béatrice Coursol Papers, Société historique de la Saskatchewan Collection, R-500.76, File 2. Saskatchewan Archives Board.

Mr. and Mrs. Abe Heinrichs and family in their home at Hague, 1915. Saskatchewan Archives Board, S-B7336.

2. Preserving Family Documents

Tracing one's family history is dependent, in large part, upon the availability of written historical sources. The deterioration of these records is inevitable but can be slowed considerably by storing and handling them properly.

The most important factor for preservation of all historical materials is the environment in which the records are stored. All papers should be kept away from light, heat and overly dry conditions as this will make the papers brittle. Cool, moist, unventilated areas provide excellent breeding grounds for moulds, fungi, insects and other vermin. Drawers, closets or filing cabinets next to interior walls, where there is a reasonably constant temperature and relative humidity, provide adequate storage facilities.

Small books may stand upright on shelves, but larger books such as family Bibles and scrapbooks stay in better condition when laid flat. As much as possible, books of the same size should be stored next to each other to keep bindings from bending and warping.

Paper documents are best not folded. If a document is large, it is better to photocopy it in sections and then roll the original or lay it flat. Photocopies can then be used for research purposes. This works especially well for newspaper clippings.

Tapes, glues or other adhesive products should not be used to repair papers. In most cases if a torn page is

placed between two sheets of clean white paper or in a mylar sheet protector it will not be damaged further. Mylar is an inert plastic considered safe to use next to paper and most photographs.

Adhesives also should not come in contact with photographs. Negatives should be separated from prints and negatives stored in such a way that they do not scratch each other. Prints can be separated from each other in a drawer or box by placing sheets of high-quality paper between them. All photographs are most vulnerable to light, high temperatures and high humidity. Therefore, it is important to keep family photographs in a dark, cool and dry place. When an album format is used, prints can be mounted with photo corners made of white paper or placed in mylar sheet protectors.

As most photographers know, the original negatives are the vital document and special care should be taken to safeguard these. With the exception of glass-plate negatives, most photographic negatives before the Second World War were on a nitrate-base film. This type of film is quite unstable and deteriorates relatively quickly, releasing chemicals into the atmosphere and ultimately posing a fire hazard. These negatives can be identified by snipping a small strip off the outer edge, placing it in an ashtray and burning it. If the strip burns brightly and rapidly, it is a nitrate-base negative. These negatives should be stored in a cool, stable environment away from other family documents as they will contaminate other photographs and papers in their proximity.

Colour photographs are most susceptible to fading because the image on colour film consists of dyes, which will undergo changes and deteriorate much more rapidly than black and white photographic images. Besides storing colour photographs in the best possible conditions, it is also wise to make a black and white negative of all colour pictures. Although the aesthetic quality may suffer, the picture itself will thus be assured a greater degree of permanence.

In general, common sense and routine checking of records for problems will help preserve these precious family heirlooms.

3. Interviewing Relatives

In the past, taking notes while interviewing someone was often an arduous and time-consuming task. Today one can use compact cassette recorders which have made the recording of interviews a much simpler procedure.

A pre-interview session is useful to determine what the interviewee can talk about and whether it is worth recording. Besides establishing some rapport between interviewee and interviewer, this preliminary session helps in formulating questions in an orderly routine for the actual recording session. Another advantage is that the interviewee will recall other details between the pre-interview session and the recording session.

The researcher should have a clear idea of the area or areas he wants to cover in his interview. A general outline and at least a few specific questions should be formulated. Since the interviewee may initially be a bit nervous, starting with general background questions will let him settle into the subject. Then more specific questions can be posed. As much as possible, the interviewer should be familiar with the background or story, but he should never have preconceived ideas about what the results of the interview should be or the answers which he feels the interviewee ought to be giving.

Although the interviewee may not wish to discuss the same topics as the interviewer, the latter should let the conversation go in his direction for awhile. Then, when an opportunity arises, he can gently turn the conversation back to the topic area. In many cases the digression itself will contain interesting material and may lead to new areas or aspects which had not been thought of before.

During the course of the interview, the interviewer should keep notes of new questions that come to mind and that he will want to ask when the opportunity arises, making a note of unfamiliar names, the spelling of which he can get from the interviewee once the recorded interview is over. Unnecessary interjections into the conversation being recorded should be avoided. It is the interviewee who is the primary speaker. The interviewer's input should be limited to questions and clarification.

After the interview, the interviewer should write the names of the interviewer and interviewee and the date of the interview on the cassette tapes. Punching out the two tabs on the top of the cassette will prevent accidental erasure. If more than one cassette is used, "1 of 2", "2 of 2", should be written on the cassettes to keep them in order. While transcribing a tape-recorded interview is a time-consuming process, compiling an outline of the contents of a tape, showing counter-coordinate numbers alongside a list of topics discussed, will make the use of the tape itself much easier.

4. Writing It Down

In all research the quality of the notes taken is most important. Adopting good note-making procedures is one of the most crucial links between the original source of information and the finished work.

If at all possible, notes should be kept on one standard size of good-quality paper. On each page the source of the information and the date it was obtained should be given. This reference should include the full name and address of the person interviewed. Or, in the case of published or manuscript sources consulted, one should make note of the full bibliographic details, page references, the library, archives or other office where the sources were found, as well as the catalogue numbers assigned. This practice will allow one to check the original source easily should that be necessary.

Charts, which provide spaces for names, dates and places in a standard format, are available from most genealogical societies. These are convenient for recording all the necessary statistical information on one's relatives. The reverse of these sheets can then be used to record the biographical details that add colour to the family history. Two types of genealogical charts are used by

FAMILY UNIT

CHART NO. ____

HUSBAND _____ WIFE _____

Son of _____ Daughter of _____

and Wife _____ and Wife _____

Birth Date _____ Birth Date _____

Place of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Death Date _____ Death Date _____

Place of Death _____ Place of Death _____

Residence _____ Residence _____

Occupation _____ Occupation _____

Church _____ Church _____

Other Wives _____ Other Husbands _____

Date of Marriage _____ Place of Marriage _____

M. F.	CHILDREN'S NAMES	BIRTH WHEN	BIRTH WHERE	DEATH WHEN	DEATH WHERE	MARRIAGE WHEN	MARRIAGE TO WHOM	NO.

SOURCES:

SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - BOX 1894 - REGINA, SASK. S4P 3E1

PEDIGREE CHART

CHART NO. ____

Sources And References On Reverse

Continued On Chart ____

Number 1 On This Chart Is Same Person As No. ____ On Chart ____

1 b. b.p. m. d.

2 b. b.p. m. d.

3 b. b.p. d.

4 b. b.p. m. d.

5 b. b.p. d.

6 b. b.p. m. d.

7 b. b.p. d.

8 b. b.p. m. d.

9 b. b.p. d.

10 b. b.p. m. d.

11 b. b.p. d.

12 b. b.p. m. d.

13 b. b.p. d.

14 b. b.p. m. d.

15 b. b.p. d.

Compiler

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Date _____

PEDIGREE CHART FORM #BR 1978

SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - BOX 1894 - REGINA, SASK. S4P 3E1

(Reprinted courtesy of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society)

most family historians. One is the Pedigree Chart which outlines one individual's ancestry, without mentioning brothers and sisters. The other is the Family Group sheet which is structured to show one family unit of parents and their children. While a large number of Family Group sheets are used, relatively few Pedigree sheets are required. It is good to buy these sheets as loose pages that can be kept in a three-ring binder; this will allow easy removal, or rearrangement if needed.

Information gathered in research notes can be transferred to the genealogical charts. Reference to sources should then be made at the bottom of the charts. The original notes should not be thrown out but kept on file for future reference. It is a good practice to keep one file folder for each Family Group sheet compiled. Research notes, copies of original documents, correspondence and other relevant items can be kept in this folder.

5. Writing Letters

Whether one is writing to a relative or to a public records office, the most important rule to remember is to keep the letter short and to the point. A long, rambling letter will rarely get the positive attention and response that a short one will. No matter who the recipient, if unreasonable or excessive demands are made in the letter, the reply will be less than favourable. In the case of archives and other records repositories, time is limited in which an inquiry can be read and answered. A specific request can be answered quickly. A vague request will very likely receive a vague reply. It is better to write three one-page letters than one three-page letter. Some background knowledge of the holdings of a records repository will help greatly in formulating a concise request for information.

The letter should be neat and orderly. To ensure that the letter is relaying accurately the message one wishes to convey, a draft copy should be made, revised if necessary, and the final copy then typed or neatly written. A carbon copy of the letter should be kept and filed in one's research notes. It might be necessary to refer to the carbon copy at some point in the future.

Considering the cost of postage, it is courteous to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, especially when one is writing to strangers and non-government offices. For letters outside Canada, international postal coupons can be purchased at post offices. Foreign recipients can then exchange the coupons for the appropriate postage in their countries when replying.

6. Genealogical Societies

For the novice family historian, the greatest single source of help and encouragement is usually the genealogical society. Most provinces and larger cities have these societies, where members meet regularly to learn and discuss methodology and to share experiences and information. Often the society has a library and several experts in particular aspects of the field. In addition, these societies publish newsletters which contain helpful articles for their members. Tapping into this reservoir can be very beneficial for anyone tracing his family history.

The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, active since 1969, has been successful in creating a library of general and specialized reference books, now housed at the Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina. The Society publishes a quarterly *Bulletin* and conducts workshops and courses in co-operation with various community colleges. Branches meet on a regular basis in several centres in the province where members discuss research methods and exchange ideas. The mailing address of the Society is:

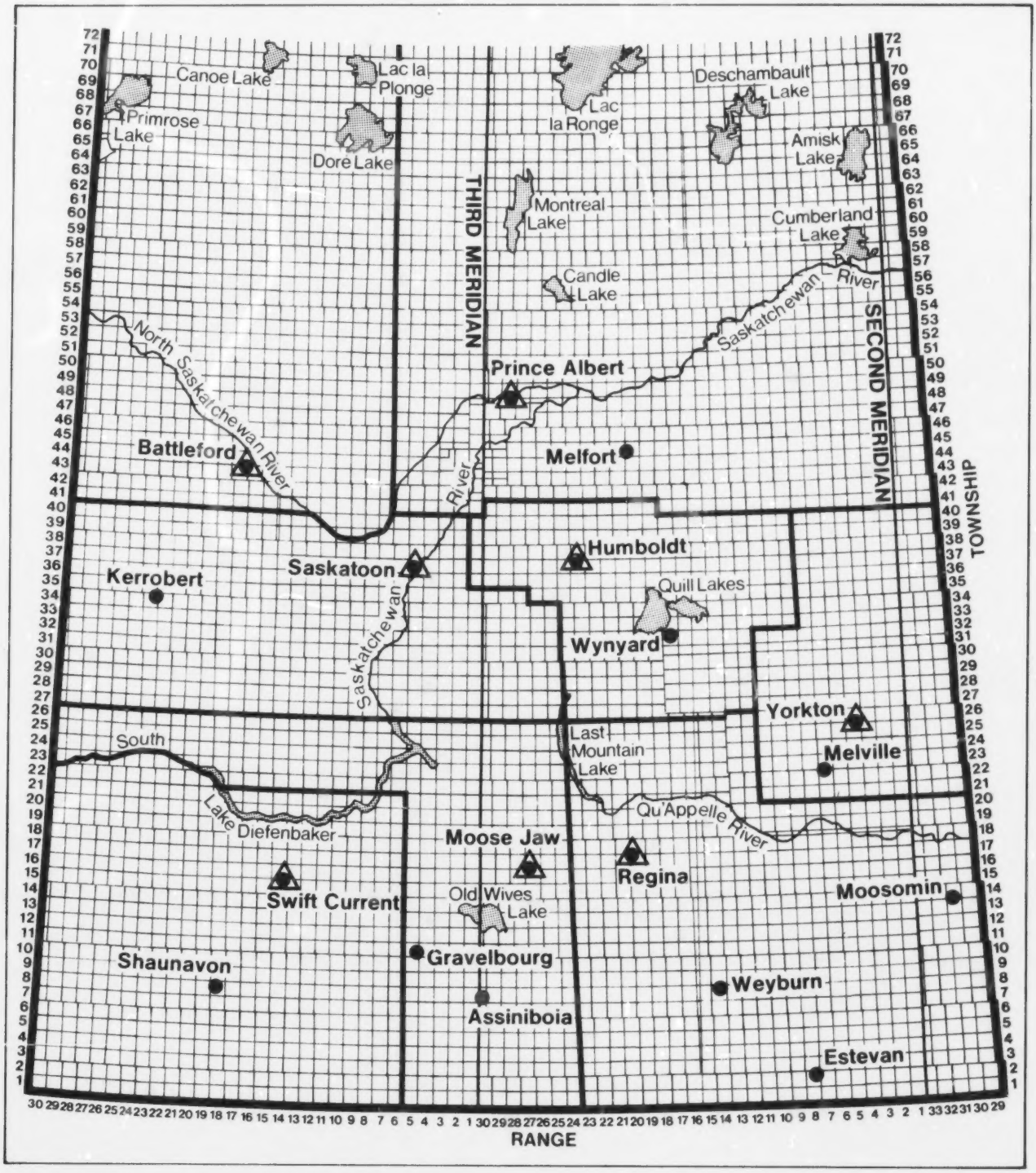
Saskatchewan Genealogical Society,
P.O. Box 1894,
Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3E1

In Regina a chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia has recently been established. The A.H.S.G.R. offers many services to those researching their German ancestry in Russia. A monthly meeting is held at the Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina. Members receive a genealogical newsletter and have access to library materials in the Society headquarters in the United States. More information can be obtained from:

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia,
Regina and District Chapter,
P.O. Box 188,
Pilot Butte, Saskatchewan, S0G 3Z0

Another very useful source of information is the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The Society operates a branch library with limited hours at the Saskatoon offices of the Church. Here microfilm copies of original genealogical record sources from around the world can be borrowed from their main library in Salt Lake City. A collection of standard reference books and indexes of names, places and subjects can be consulted at the branch library. One does not need to be a member of this church to make use of its facilities. Since the library staff will not undertake research projects for individuals, it is best to arrange a personal visit to discuss one's family research with them. The Saskatoon stake is located at 1429–10th Street East, Saskatoon. Their mailing address is as follows:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints,
Saskatoon Stake Branch Genealogical Library,
P.O. Box 7347,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 4J3



• *Judicial Centres,* ▵ *Land Titles Offices*

Land Registration Districts and Judicial Centres in Saskatchewan

II. Official Sources

1. Vital Statistics Records

Civil registration of births and deaths in Saskatchewan began in 1888 and, in the case of marriages, in 1878 in accordance with ordinances of the North-West Territories. However, due to difficulties in developing an effective system in the early years, the registration of vital events was not complete until approximately 1920.

Registrations of vital events which occurred in Saskatchewan are filed in the Division of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, 3475 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4S 6X6. Direct public access to these records is not permitted. Record searches will be conducted by Vital Statistics staff in accordance with their policies upon receipt of a written application which includes the necessary identifying information and the prescribed fees.

It should be noted that the Division of Vital Statistics is not constituted to handle general searches pertaining to events where the necessary identifying information cannot be provided. All vital events are registered separately and no cross-references are made between them to establish family relationships. Therefore, sources other than registration records should be consulted for genealogical information wherever possible.

Since the privacy of individuals and their families must be considered, information regarding living persons will not be released for genealogical purposes except to the individual concerned or to his or her agent. Information regarding deceased persons will not be released to persons other than immediate family members or next-of-kin. Documents which are issued regarding deceased persons do not include the cause of death.

Requests for record searches should be submitted on prescribed application forms which are available from the Division of Vital Statistics. The identifying information required on each type of application is as follows:

Birth: full name of individual to whom the record pertains, date and place of birth, full name of father, full maiden name of mother, name of applicant, and relationship of applicant to the person named in the registration record.

Marriage: full name of groom, full maiden name of bride, date and place of marriage, name of applicant, and relationship of applicant to the persons named in the registration record.

Death: full name of deceased individual, date and place of death, age and marital status at time of death, place of residence prior to death, full name of spouse or parents, name of applicant, and relationship of applicant to deceased person.

The current fee for a three-year record search and the subsequent issuing of a certificate or report of the search is $5.00. This fee should be submitted with the application in the form of a cheque or money order made payable to the Department of Health.

Record searches for purposes of genealogy are handled only as time permits. Therefore, applicants should not expect to receive results of record searches immediately following application. Applications will be processed more quickly where full and accurate identifying information is provided.

2. Court Records

The administration of justice in the area now called Saskatchewan dates from the period prior to the transfer of Rupert's Land to the Dominion of Canada in 1870. In these early years the Hudson's Bay Company had the responsibility of bringing offenders before its General Court in the Red River settlement.

In 1873 the first stipendiary magistrates and justices of the peace were appointed in the North-West Territories. More serious offences were usually tried before the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench. This system continued until 1886, when Dominion and Territorial legislation provided for the establishment of the Supreme Court of the North-West Territories and five judicial districts. Each judicial district also had a District Court and a Surrogate Court. The Saskatchewan Legislature dissolved the Supreme Court in 1915 and replaced it with the Court of King's Bench (or Queen's Bench during the reign of a queen) and the Court of Appeal, while the District and Surrogate courts continued to operate as before. By 1958 the number of judicial districts had increased to 21. In that year these districts were dissolved and, in their place, there was established just one judicial district, comprising the whole province, with 21 judicial centres.

In recent years the judicial system in Saskatchewan has been significantly reorganized. District and Magistrates' Courts have been discontinued. There are now a number of courts in the province, including the Court of Appeal, Court of Queen's Bench, Provincial, Small Claims, Traffic Safety, Surrogate and Unified Family Courts. Currently there are 18 judicial centres in the province. These are listed below:

Assiniboia, S0H 0B0
Battleford, S0M 0E0
Estevan, S4S 0W5
Gravelbourg, S0H 1X0
Humboldt, S0K 2A0
Kerrobert, S0L 1R0
Melfort, S0E 1A0
Melville, S0A 2P0
Moose Jaw, S6H 4P1
Moosomin, S0G 3N0
Prince Albert, S6H 4W7
Regina, S4P 3V7
Saskatoon, S7K 3G7
Shaunavon, S0N 0L0
Swift Current, S9H 0J4
Weyburn, S4H 0L4
Wynyard, S0A 4T0
Yorkton, S3N 0C2

IN The Supreme Court of The North - West Territories

Judicial District of Saskatchewan.

No 1903 at Battleford

Between,-

Mary J. Keating, Plaintiff,

and

The Reverend Isaac Moses Barr, Defendant.

Statement of Claim.

1. The plaintiff is a registered member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the North - West Territories.

2. The Plaintiff was engaged by the Defendant on or about the 15th of April, 1903, for a year certain, as a physician and Surgeon, at a salary of $1200 a year, payable monthly.

3. On the 14th day of May, 1903, the Defendant wrongfully dismissed the Plaintiff from his employment.

4. The Defendant has paid the plaintiff $100, being one payment on account of said yearly salary.

The Plaintiff Claims:-
$ 1100 damages.
Place of trial Battleford.

C.H. Bradburn
Plaintiff's Advocate.

Delivered the 8th day of June, 1903, by Charles Herbert Bradburn of the Village of Battleford in the District of Saskatchewan, Advocat for the plaintiff.

Battleford Supreme Court Records, Keating vs. Barr, No. 26, 1903. Saskatchewan Archives Board.

Court sessions below the level of the Court of Appeal are held in all judicial centres in the province. The jurisdiction of the court, as defined from time to time by provincial legislation, determines the court in which a case is heard. Generally speaking, criminal offences and claims involving large amounts of money are tried in the Court of Queen's Bench. Other cases involving civil law are tried in a lower court. Appeals may be made to the Court of Queen's Bench, the Court of Appeal, or the Supreme Court of Canada.

Records of court proceedings are created and maintained in each judicial centre. Each court jurisdiction maintains its own series of files. These are kept strictly in numerical sequence by the year court proceedings began. Reference to a procedure or docket book is therefore necessary in order to retrieve the file for a particular court action. The procedure or docket book simply names the plaintiff, or claimant, and the defendant, states the type of action, lists the documents filed and the date they were filed. These books are indexed alphabetically. The type of documents in court records can vary greatly. Normally there is a statement of claim or complaint, a copy of the writ of summons, a statement of defence, and the judgement of the case. There may also be exhibits, affidavits, declarations, depositions, copies of subpoenas, examinations for discovery, informations, notes of justices of the peace, and writs of execution. Usually a transcript of proceedings is made only in cases appealed to a higher court.

Records of the Supreme Court of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, the Court of King's Bench and the District Courts prior to 1931, with the exception of the Saskatoon judicial district, are now in the custody of the Saskatchewan Archives Board. More recent records are still in the hands of the respective judicial centres. Surrogate Court records are all in the custody of the judicial centres, although copies of all probate files in the province are held by the Surrogate Court in Regina.

The probate records kept by the Surrogate Courts are the most informative court records from the genealogical standpoint. In the will filed in these records, members of the family of the deceased are usually mentioned and an indication of his material wealth and the ultimate division of the estate can be determined. Even when someone has died intestate (without leaving a will), probate records of the administration of the estate may list property and legal heirs, and may designate one or more executors.

While most court records are accessible to the general public, certain ones, such as those relating to adoption proceedings and court actions involving juveniles, are not. Because of the arrangement and storage of the court records, inquiries must be specific. The name of the plaintiff or the defendant, the place of the trial, and the year of the trial should be known before the researcher approaches the judicial centre or the Saskatchewan Archives Board for information. For inquiries to the Surrogate Court, the name and residence of the deceased, as well as the date of death, must be provided.

3. Land Records

Land titles. Documenting an ancestor's ownership of a piece of land in Saskatchewan is an important, but sometimes a time-consuming task for the genealogist. Very often family or local government records are incomplete, and the only source of information is the Land Titles Office of the Department of the Attorney-General. There are eight land registration districts in Saskatchewan, each with its own Land Titles Office. (See map on page 6.)

Every legal transaction involving the transfer of title to land must be registered in the Land Titles Office. The registry is basically a chronological filing of all documents relating to all lands in a particular land registration district. Thus, all documents pertaining to one parcel of land are not necessarily filed adjacent to one another. Making an historical search for the record of one transfer of title may, therefore, be a cumbersome and costly process.

The basic prerequisite for searching a land title is to know the legal land description. In the case of rural lands, this usually means the section, township and range numbers. With urban lands, the lot, block and plan numbers—not the street address—are required. No name index exists for the Land Titles records.

Should one wish to trace an individual's ownership of any given parcel of land, an historical search must be made by Land Titles staff. This involves tracing all transfer documents beginning with either the original grant from the Crown or the most recent certificate of ownership. For certified copies of documents there is an additional charge. Often, it is easier and cheaper to visit the Land Titles Office personally if that is at all possible.

Listed below are addresses for Land Titles Offices in Saskatchewan:

Battleford, S0M 0E0
Humboldt, S0K 2A0
Moose Jaw, S6H 4P1
Prince Albert, S6V 1B3
Regina, S4P 3V6
Saskatoon, S7K 3G7
Swift Current, S9H 4G3
Yorkton, S3N 2Y4

Homestead records. The files commonly referred to as the "homestead files" held by the Saskatchewan Archives Board were created by the head office of the Dominion Lands Branch, Federal Department of the Interior, when it was in charge of land settlement, 1871–1930, and by the Lands Branch of the Saskatchewan government after 1930.

Each file pertains to a specific quarter-section or other portion of land available for settlement under the provisions of the *Dominion Lands Act*. It provides information on settlers seeking to obtain title to the land and basically covers the period from date of entry until the grant of patent, at which time the file was closed unless there were seed grain liens against the land.

Form A

1773131 Form No. 1.

No. 1

Application for Entry for a Homestead, a Pre-emption or a Purchased Homestead.

3. George Frederick Shepherd

of Girvin do hereby apply for an Entry

for a Homestead under the provisions of Section in that

behalf of the Dominion Lands Act, for the 160, Quarter Section of Section number

23 in Township 26, Range 26 W of

the Second Meridian.

(2.) I am a British subject.

(3.) I ~~am a citizen (or subject, as the case may be)~~ of , but I declare that it is my intention to become a ~~British subject under the laws of Canada.~~

Regina Sig. George Frederick Shepherd

District.

Davidson Dec 10'08

JAN 2

Note.—~~Strike out paragraph 2 if applicant is not a British subject.~~
~~Strike out paragraph 3 if applicant is a British subject.~~

Note.—The statistical information called for below will be obtained and filled in by Agent when granting entry.

Number in family, including entrant, giving their Ages.				COUNTRY OF BIRTH.	SUB-DIVISION OF COUNTRY OF BIRTH.	LAST PLACE OF RESIDENCE.	PREVIOUS OCCUPATION.
Male Adult.	Female Adult.	Children under 18	Total.				
20			1	England	Kent	Girvin	Butcher

DEC 24 1908

Application for homestead entry by George F. Shepherd, December 10, 1908, Homestead Records, File 1773131. Saskatchewan Archives Board.

The files contain information pertaining to various types of land grants: homesteads, pre-emptions, purchases on time sales, scrip grants to North West Métis and South African volunteers, and grants made to veterans of the 1914–1918 war. They also contain information on river lots, northern settlement and pasture leases, as well as incidental information relating to Indian reserves, lands obtained for school sites or churches, and crown lands set aside for specific purposes.

Three basic documents completed under the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act are:

a) *application for entry:* this form was signed by the homesteader when he applied for entry on the land and gives the land location of the homestead, the date of entry, and the applicant's nationality. It also can provide the place of birth, previous residence and occupation, and a list of ages of family members but not their names. Applications for entry were not retained in every file. The homesteader also signed an affidavit in support of the application for entry. If the homesteader had previously made entry on a homestead, the date of entry and land description of this land are given on the affidavit.

b) *sworn statement in support of application for patent:* this was signed by the homesteader providing proof that he had met the requirements of the *Dominion Lands Act*. The information provided includes the name, age and citizenship status of the homesteader, length of residence on the land and the number of family members residing with him, cultivation done on the land, stock held, and the value of his dwelling, buildings and other improvements. If the homesteader had been naturalized, the date of certificate of naturalization is usually written on the sworn statement. On the reverse side of the document are the sworn statements of two witnesses verifying the information provided by the homesteader in his statement.

c) *notification of patent:* this is a notification from the Lands Branch to the homesteader that patent was issued in his name and that he was eligible to apply for a certificate of title at the Land Registration District office. The date that patent was issued and the postal address of the homesteader are given on this document.

Other documents sometimes contained in files are declarations of abandonment, notification of cancellation of entry, inspector's reports, statutory declarations of the homesteader's progress, copies of wills and naturalization certificates, and correspondence regarding a variety of subjects, particularly seed grain liens or interpretation of homestead law. Infrequently, statutory declarations regarding nationality, township maps and even photographs have been found in files.

The series of land grant files for the period after 1930 tend to provide more detail than the earlier series. Names and ages of family members are sometimes provided, and correspondence and inspector's reports offer more insight into the homesteader and his work on the land.

A file in the pre-1930 homestead records can be located either by the full name of the homesteader or the legal land description of the homestead. Both should be provided if they are known. If the legal discription is not known, the name of the nearest village or town is useful in making the search. In order to locate a file for a homestead grant after 1930, the legal land description is required. The basic documents in the records up to 1930 were copied on microfilm by the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The microfilm copies are available for use in the Regina office of the Archives; the original files are in the Saskatoon office.

4. Municipal Records

Almost as soon as settlement began, the need for local governments was apparent. The first attempt by the Government of the North-West Territories to allow unincorporated communities some form of self-government was *The Municipal Ordinance* of 1883. However, it was not until more adequate legislation was passed in 1893 that the movement began in earnest to incorporate village governments. A major revision regarding the establishment of local governments came in 1908 and 1909. The powers of village, town and city governments were clearly established through new provincial legislation. Another significant development affected rural government. Existing small local improvement districts were dissolved on 13 December 1909 and a grid of rural municipal boundaries was imposed on Saskatchewan, which basically remains intact today. The boundaries normally enclosed nine townships which remained a Local Improvement District until the residents petitioned the Minister of Municipal Affairs for incorporation as a Rural Municipality.

Some records of rural municipalities, villages, towns and cities can be very helpful for those tracing their ancestry. However, since most local government offices are not able to provide extensive research services for genealogists, it is best to arrange a personal visit. Possibly such a visit could be planned in conjunction with a vacation, should the office be some distance away. If a personal visit proves to be impossible, a letter asking for limited, specific information may bring a satisfactory response. Addresses of local government officials in Saskatchewan are given in the *Municipal Directory*, available from Saskatchewan Urban Affairs, 2151 Scarth Street, Regina, S4P 3V7, for the price of $2.00. These addresses are also listed in the *Canadian Almanac and Directory*.

Assessment and tax rolls, municipal maps and voters lists for years gone by can provide invaluable leads. They will help to determine the legal land description of parcels of land once owned by a member of the family. With this information in hand, the researcher can go on to land titles and homestead records for more details. Municipal records will also give some indication of the extent and value of real property owned by the family member. Very often the municipality operates a cemetery for the community and will have records relating to burials. Even

PETITION

for

ERECTION of VILLAGE

TO THE [illegible] COMMISSIONER

FOR SASKATCHEWAN :

We, the undersigned, do hereby petition for the erection into a village under the Village Act of that portion of the Province of Saskatchewan, the limits of which are shown in detail on the map or plan annexed and the boundaries of which are as follows :

[illegible] Twp. 32 [illegible] 14 [illegible] W.

.....t.....ti..l.of.....,who is a responsible person in that behalf and resides within the said limits, will undertake to post up the notices required by section 12 of the said Act. The undersigned severally declare, each for himself, that he actually resides within the limits of the said area and believes it to contain not less than fifty persons actually resident therein.

We suggest .....as a suitable place for the nomination meeting, ...of.....as a suitable person to act as returning officer at the first election and the .....day of .....1909, at the hour of ..... o'clock in the .....noon (mountain standard time) at .....as a suitable time and place for the first meeting of the Council.

Name	Address	Occupation.
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Elfros	Mgr Valmedal Elfros lumber Yard
[illegible]	Elfros	merchant
[illegible]	"	Farmer
[illegible]	"	"
[illegible]	"	Farmer
[illegible]	"	Farmer

Petition for incorporation of the village of Elfros, 1909, Department of Municipal Affairs Records, S-MA.5. Saskatchewan Archives Board.

the record of the sale of a cemetery plot can be a valuable clue to the family historian. Usually the municipal clerk will know of relatives still living in the area or can suggest a local historical society that may be able to help find other genealogical information within the community.

Records from a number of rural and urban municipalities have been preserved in the original or on a microfilm copy in the offices of the Saskatchewan Archives Board. However, with few exceptions, these comprise primarily minutes of the local government.

The Saskatoon office of the Saskatchewan Archives Board has municipal corporation files created by the Department of Municipal Affairs, dating back to the 1890s. The files relate to the incorporation of rural municipalities, villages, towns and cities in the province, and they usually contain a list of petitioners asking the Minister for incorporation. In the case of rural municipalities, each petitioner was required to give the legal land description of his home farm. For urban municipalities, he had to state his occupation and he often provided the legal description of his lot. Beginning in 1914, legislation required that a census be taken in hamlets petitioning for incorporation as a village, and this enumeration may be found in the municipal corporation file. Undoubtedly this is a valuable document for the genealogist as it provides the name, age and address of every resident.

Another potentially valuable source to the genealogist is a series of files in the records of the United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section) in the Saskatoon office of the Saskatchewan Archives Board. Legislation passed in 1940 allowed councils of rural municipalities to enroll all resident farmers as members of the U.F.C. (The legislation was repealed in 1950.) For those rural municipalities that did enroll under this plan, voters lists are on file in the U.F.C. records, providing the names and legal land description of residence for all voters in the municipality.

5. Church Records

More than any other type of institution, religious bodies have been scrupulous in recording vital information. Important rites, such as baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials, have usually been dutifully recorded in the parish register very soon after they were performed. These record the names of the key participants, as well as names of parents or other family members, vital ages, dates and places that all are so important to the family historian. However, we must take into consideration that, like vital statistics registrations, church records often contain information bearing on the privacy of the individual. These records may, therefore, be considered confidential, and access may be restricted by the church that maintains them.

Very often the major problem for the genealogist is finding the records of the church in which his family were members. In many instances the church may have closed and the parish registers transferred elsewhere. Some denominations regularly transfer congregational records to a central repository, while other denominations with a less formalized hierarchical structure may not do this.

A number of parish or congregational registers from various denominations have been microfilmed by the Public Archives of Canada. These are primarily from eastern Canada and, in some cases, date back to the 17th century. While it must be understood that the holdings of the Public Archives are only a small fraction of all parish records, even in eastern Canada, it is worthwhile to consult their *Checklist of Parish Registers* (1981) with regard to one's own research interests.

The Saskatchewan Archives Board has in its custody many original and microfilm copies of parish registers. Most of these are from United, Anglican and Presbyterian churches in the province, but other denominations are represented as well. Since in most cases access to these records is subject to the permission of the Conference or Diocese, the researcher should contact the appropriate church body first.

Unless one definitely knows that the church to which his family belonged is still open, it is best to write to the central office or archives of that denominational body with one's inquiries. If necessary, the letter will usually be forwarded to the appropriate congregation. Listed below are addresses for the major church bodies represented in Saskatchewan.

Anglican Church of Canada

The Archivist,
Qu'Appelle Diocese,
1501 College Avenue,
Regina, S4P 1B8

Saskatoon Diocese,
Box 1965,
Saskatoon, S7K 3S5

Saskatchewan Diocese,
Box 1088,
Prince Albert, S6V 5S6

Baptist Church

Canadian Baptist Archives,
McMaster Divinity College,
Hamilton, Ontario
L8S 4K1

Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada,
247–1st Avenue North,
Saskatoon, S7K 1X2

Manitoba–Saskatchewan District,
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod,
1927 Grant Drive,
Regina, S4S 4V6

Archives of the Central Canada Synod,
Lutheran Church in America,
c/o Lutheran Theological Seminary,
114 Seminary Crescent,
Saskatoon, S7N 0X3

Marriage Certificate

Diocese of Saskatchewan | On the 30th day of May 1910. in St. Johns Church - Saskatoon.

Were Married John McNaughton
of the Piche P.O. Sask. (Bachelor)
and Violet Clara Jackson
of the Harris P.O. Sask. (Spinster.)
by me
Ernest B. Smith.

This Marriage *was solemnized between us.*

Witnesses:
W. D. Jackson
Fred Morgan

John McNaughton
Violet Clara Jackson

I Certify *that the above particulars are truly extracted from the Register of marriages kept in* St. Johns Parish Saskatoon *this* 31st *day of* May 1910.

E. B. Smith.

THE MUSSON BOOK COMPANY LIMITED TORONTO

Certificate of the marriage of John McNaughton and Violet C. Jackson, May 30, 1910, Violet McNaughton Papers, S-A1, File C.4. Saskatchewan Archives Board.

Mennonite Church

Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies in Canada,
77 Henderson Highway,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2L 1L1

Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives,
600 Shaftesbury Boulevard,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3P 0M4

Methodist Church

(see United Church of Canada)

Presbyterian Church

Clerk of the Synod of Saskatchewan,
Presbyterian Church in Canada,
c/o First Presbyterian Church,
2127 Albert Street,
Regina, S4P 2V1

(see also United Church of Canada)

Roman Catholic Church

Regina Archdiocese,
2522 Retallack Street,
Regina, S4T 2L3

Gravelbourg Diocese,
P.O. Box 690,
Gravelbourg, S0H 1X0

Prince Albert Diocese,
1415–4th Avenue West,
Prince Albert, S6V 5H1

Saskatoon Diocese,
106–5th Avenue North,
Saskatoon, S7K 2N7

Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Saskatoon Diocese,
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church,
866 Saskatchewan Crescent East,
Saskatoon, S7N 0L4

Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church

Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada,
9 St. Johns Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2W 1G8

United Church of Canada

Saskatchewan Conference,
United Church of Canada,
St. Andrew's College,
1121 College Drive,
Saskatoon, S7N 0W3

6. Cemeteries

Tombstone inscriptions, although sometimes subject to inaccuracies, are another valuable source of information for the family historian. Besides providing dates of birth and death, or the age of the individual at the time of death, sometimes additional information on places of birth and death, and even names of other relatives are given on the stone. Occasionally one may be fortunate enough to find a tombstone which gives information such as the following:

Erected to the Memory of
Mary Elizabeth Smith,
Beloved wife of
Joseph Henry Brown,
Born June 18, 1873
in Uxbridge, Ontario.
Died November 27, 1912
in Goldfinch, Saskatchewan

The records of burials and the cemetery plan kept by the church sexton or the municipal clerk's office will often provide other clues. For instance, the name of the person who purchased a cemetery plot may be a valuable lead to other sources. Often members of the same family will be buried in close proximity to each other. If they have different surnames, the relationship may not be immediately apparent. An older relative or community elder may be willing to come along to the cemetery and, as he browses through the tombstones or cemetery records and finds pertinent names and dates, he will remember the family ties more vividly.

The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society has been active in listing tombstone inscriptions in the province. The information gathered has been deposited in their library in Regina. Occasionally these listings have been published in the Society *Bulletin*.

7. Records of Educational Institutions

Until recent times there were thousands of school districts in the province, the majority of them rural. It can be a problem to determine where family members attended school, but if the land description of the home farm is known, the municipal office in the area or the Saskatchewan Archives Board can help to pinpoint the school district in which they lived. The most valuable record from the genealogical standpoint kept by the local schools is the attendance register of pupils. The register provides a list of all children enrolled in the school, along with their ages or dates of birth and sometimes the names of their parents or guardians. Unfortunately these records are not always readily accessible. Often they were simply lost or destroyed, or they were kept by the last secretary-treasurer when the school closed. In a few cases the records have been deposited with the Saskatchewan Archives Board or a local museum or library. Regulations stipulate that attendance registers are to be retained by the School Division office in the area concerned and most of them are to be found at this source. A *Directory of School Officials* is available from Saskatchewan Education, 2220 College Avenue, Regina, S4P 3V7, or one can find addresses in the *Canadian Almanac and Directory*.

DECLARATION

(Section 18—Form A)

This Declaration must be signed by all resident Ratepayers wishing to take part in or vote at the First School Meeting held in a proposed district.

Proposed Nash School District

(Proposed Name of District)

of the Province of Saskatchewan

The undersigned severally declare, each for himself, that he is of the full age of twenty-one years, that he actually resides within the above-named proposed school district, and that he has so resided therein and owned or been the occupant of assessable property therein for a period of at least two months immediately prior to this date.

NAME.	PROPERTY OWNED OR OCCUPIED.
Fred R. Eyre	N.W. qr of 2-36-14 w of 2nd M.
[illegible]	[illegible]
Jno A Holt	N ½ 12 36 14
[illegible] Bergman	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Ernest Eyre	[illegible]
William J. Smith	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
John W. Child.	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Isaac Brown	NE ¼ 31 35 14 2nd
W. T. Haycock.	[illegible]
Erik Bergman	S W ¼ 12, 36, 14

Dated the 24th day of July 1909

Fred R. Eyre Chairman.

Witness to above signatures [illegible] Secretary.

RETURN TO DEPARTMENT

Form 4—1,000—January, 1908.

Declaration of resident ratepayers regarding erection of School District No. 2481, July 24, 1909, Department of Education Records, R-177. Saskatchewan Archives Board.

The Regina office of the Saskatchewan Archives Board holds a file created in the Department of Education for each school district established in Saskatchewan. While these files do not contain the names of pupils, they frequently include information concerning the activities leading up to the school district's formation such as the original petition and the names and residences of the first ratepayers. The files also include lists of trustees and other officials, correspondence, some annual reports and a few superintendent's reports. Also included in the Department of Education records are Inactive Teachers Register Sheets, 1912–1938, which show the date and place of birth and educational qualifications of the teachers listed.

Generally speaking, student records from institutions of higher education are not accessible to the public. Nevertheless there are quite often yearbooks and student newspapers that offer information on individual students. These are available in the archives of the two universities and in college libraries, and some have been collected by the Saskatchewan Archives Board.

8. Federal Government Records

A number of records of genealogical value, created by the federal government, have been transferred to the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa. These include early census enumerations, military lists, land records and passenger lists. A detailed description of these sources is given in *Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada* by Patricia Kennedy and Janine Roy (Ottawa: Public Archives, 1983), a free booklet available from the Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N3.

Some of these records are available in microfilm copy through the interlibrary loan service and are available to libraries in Saskatchewan which have microfilm readers. For this reason, more comprehensive information is provided below. A local library should be contacted with regard to borrowing these microfilm sources.

Census. The first nominal enumeration of residents which has been preserved in the Public Archives is a census of Quebec in 1666. Scattered census records at irregular intervals are available from more recent times. The first nominal census to include all of Canada from Nova Scotia to British Columbia was taken in 1881, which incidentally is the first to include the area now Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Archives Board has a copy of the microfilm of the 1881 census of the former North-West Territories and of Ontario. Because of statutory restrictions over the use of more recent enumerations, 1881 is the latest census available for public research.

The census records themselves are a household-by-household listing in each enumeration district. Each resident is listed by name along with his or her age, country or province of birth, religion, ethnic origin, occupation and marital status. There is no alphabetical index to these records, so the researcher must first of all know the place of residence of the ancestors he wishes to research, and then he must be prepared to search through all residents of that place until he finds them.

Passenger lists. While federal immigration and citizenship records prior to 1917 are very sketchy, one compensation is the fairly extensive collection of lists of passengers arriving in Canadian ports beginning in 1865. These lists were compiled under law by ships transporting people to Canada. The originals are now in the Public Archives of Canada and have been copied on microfilm for dissemination to the public.

Passenger lists are available on microfilm for those arriving in the ports of Quebec, 1865–1908, Halifax, 1880–1908, St. John, 1900–1908, Victoria, 1905–1908, Vancouver, 1905–1908, and *via* U.S. ports of Boston, Baltimore, New York, Portland and Philadelphia, 1905–1908. The Saskatchewan Archives Board has a copy of the microfilm of passenger lists for the ports of Quebec, 1865–1900, and Halifax, 1880–1900.

The lists are arranged by date of arrival, so it is necessary for the genealogist to know approximately what date and in what port his ancestors arrived. Since the lists are not alphabetically arranged, the researcher must scan through them in order to locate the pertinent entries. The information given is generally the name, age, occupation, and intended destination of each passenger. Unfortunately the origin of the immigrant is rarely provided.

9. Libraries

Many libraries in the province offer services of great value to the family historian. Their holdings often include genealogical reference books, atlases, gazetteers, newspapers, directories, local and family histories. In some of the larger libraries, local history rooms have been established to collect printed and documentary items relating to their districts. Sometimes sources of information which can be found nowhere else will be available in the local library.

Another important service provided by libraries is interlibrary loan, whereby books and microfilm from other institutions can be borrowed through the local library. Records such as the Census of Canada in the Public Archives of Canada and newspapers in the offices of the Saskatchewan Archives Board have been copied on microfilm and are available through the interlibrary loan system. Those interested in making use of this service should first contact their local library. If the local library does not have a microfilm reader, perhaps a nearby city library does and the researcher may be able to use its facilities.

A comprehensive list of all local libraries in Saskatchewan is available from the Provincial Library, 1352 Winnipeg Street, Regina, S4P 3V7. A list is also published in the *Canadian Almanac and Directory*.

10. Museums

Museums can also be valuable institutions with which to check for local sources of family history. If a family heirloom has been donated to the museum collection, the museum files should have background information. Diaries, business records, photographs and the like may also be deposited in the local museum.

For a list of museums in Saskatchewan, one should contact the:

Saskatchewan Museums Association,
2205 Victoria Avenue,
Regina, S4P 9Z9

11. The Saskatchewan Archives Board

The Saskatchewan Archives Board, a joint undertaking of the provincial government and the two universities, was established by an Act of the provincial legislature in 1945. It has been active in collecting and preserving government records and private papers, and in making them available for research purposes. Many of these documents contain valuable information for family historians.

The most profitable way of searching for information in the Archives is to visit its offices personally. When this is not possible, Archives staff will answer specific inquiries through the mail. Because of limitations in staff time, extensive research on individual projects cannot be undertaken by the Archives.

The Saskatchewan Archives Board operates two offices, one in Regina and the other in Saskatoon. Hours of service are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except statutory holidays. The addresses are as follows:

Saskatchewan Archives Board
University of Regina
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0A2
(Phone: 565-4068)

Saskatchewan Archives Board,
Murray Memorial Building,
University of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 0W0
(Phone: 664-5832)

Besides the record sources in the Archives already mentioned in this handbook, several other sources of interest to genealogists are available.

Private papers. The papers of a great many individuals and organizations in the province have been deposited in the Archives. They are not exclusively those of prominent figures, but include diaries, reminiscences and letters of many ordinary people who helped to build the province.

(Left to right) Ella McKinnon, Alyce Howard, Gwen (a cousin) and John Howard picking berries, Whitewood district, n.d. Saskatchewan Archives Board, R-A6230.

Sound archives. Many tape-recorded interviews have been conducted with pioneers and noted personalities. These are often biographical in nature, so a comprehensive picture of the individual, his family and community is given. Either the original recordings or transcripts of them are available for research use.

Photographs. The Saskatchewan Archives Board has over 200,000 photographs relating to individuals or groups, homesteading and agricultural activities, urban and rural scenes and events in Saskatchewan from the 1880s to the present. They are indexed according to subject, personal name and place name. They are stored in acid free sleeves and envelopes, readily accessible to researchers.

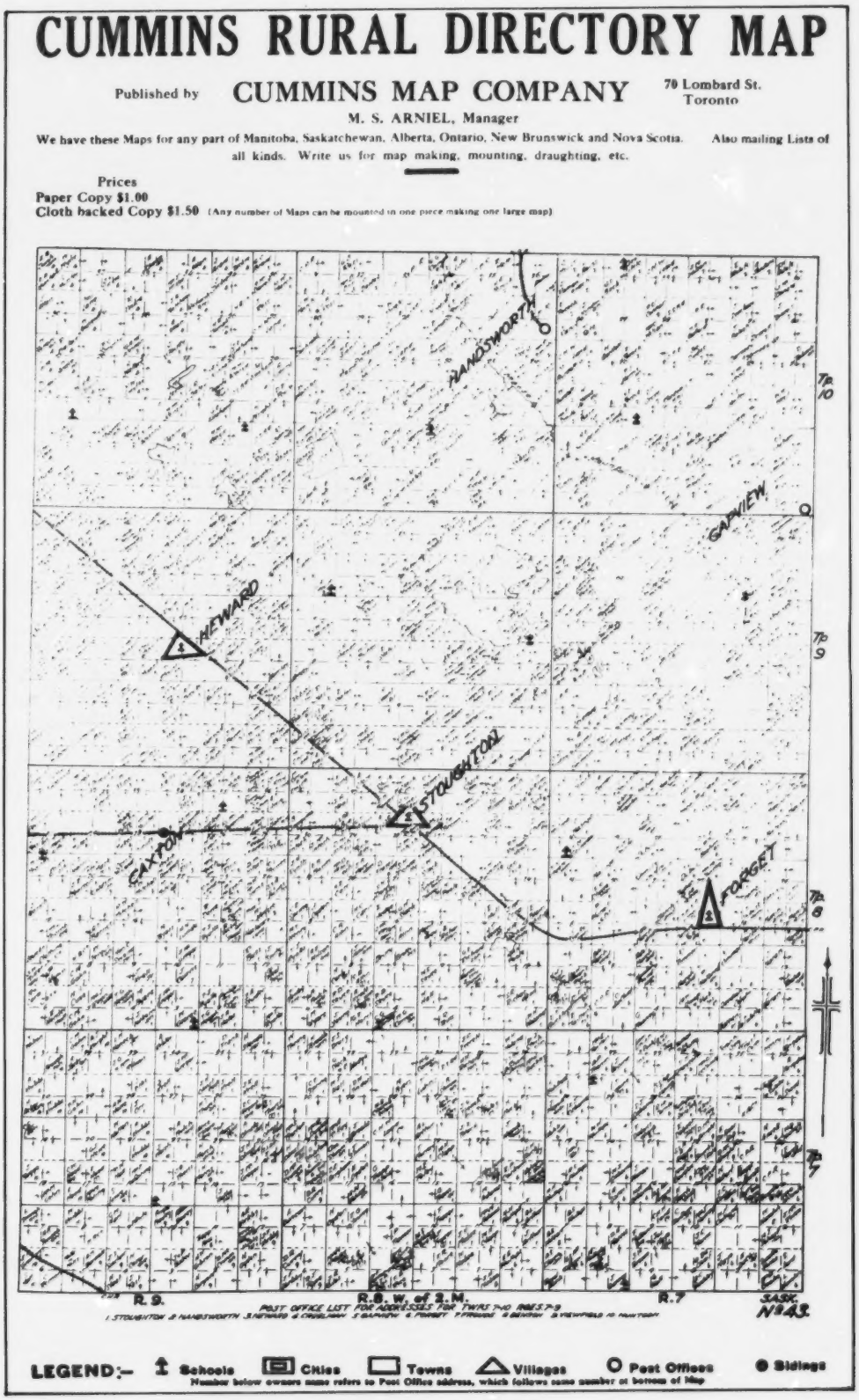
Military records. Most Canadian military records are in the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa and information on what is available can be obtained by writing to them. The Regina office of the Saskatchewan Archives Board has some records pertaining to Saskatchewan soldiers. The records of the Department of Public Works Registrar for the proposed Saskatchewan War Memorial include nominal rolls of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The names are arranged by battalion only; there is no name index to the entire collection. Lists of fatal casualties from the province of Saskatchewan for World War II are available. These names are arranged in three volumes—Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army, and Royal Canadian Air Force—and within these, by home community at time of enlistment.

Maps and atlases. Township plans, based on the original surveys in Saskatchewan, were drawn primarily before settlement took place. In a few cases farms are shown which had been established in the earliest period, as for example in the Prince Albert district. Cummins Rural Directory maps for Saskatchewan were published in 1917–1918, 1920, 1922, 1926 (east of the Third Meridian only), and 1930 (north of Township 21 only). All series are available in the Regina office, although there are some maps missing. They show all occupants of rural lands and indicate the location of towns, villages, and hamlets. Sometimes the location of post offices, school districts and settlements can be located with the help of maps and other sources in the Archives.

Directories. Directories listing residents and businesses in cities, towns, villages and hamlets are in the Archives collection. Henderson's directories for the area now comprising Saskatchewan date back to 1885. More recent city directories have been added on a regular basis. The Regina office has extensive holdings of Saskatchewan telephone directories from 1905. Other directories may also be found in the Archives which will help provide biographical information on notable family members. Examples of these are *Who's Who in Western Canada*, edited by C.W. Parker (Vancouver, 1911), *A Who's Who in Saskatchewan*, edited by G.V. Wade (Saskatoon, 1958), and *The Parliamentary Guide*.

Newspapers. Wherever possible, back files of daily and weekly newspapers from across the province have been microfilmed by the Archives. The earliest of these, the *Saskatchewan Herald* from Battleford, dates from 1878. There are complete holdings of all weeklies since 1943. These newspapers provide information of interest to genealogists on births, marriages, deaths and other events.

Other publications and manuscripts. Clippings, pamphlets, family and local histories containing biographical information can be found in the archives. Some of these items are unpublished and so are a unique and valuable source of information. Biographical sketches of prominent Saskatchewanians appear in published works like N.F. Black's *History of Saskatchewan* and J. Hawkes' *Saskatchewan and Its People*. A series of pioneer questionnaires was completed in the 1950s by some of the earliest residents of the province. They offer much biographical and genealogical data and are indexed by name and community.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R. 7
SASK.
No 43
LEGEND:- Schools Cities Towns Villages Post Offices Sidings

A Cummins Rural Directory map, 1917–1918. Saskatchewan Archives Board.

III. Research Outside Saskatchewan

1. Canadian Sources

As in Saskatchewan, genealogical research in other parts of Canada may involve contacting several different offices. Provincial and regional archives, genealogical societies, churches and other institutions are likely to have sources of information for family history purposes. Before contacting these institutions, it is wise to do some study of the sources in those particular provinces. Several publications are now available to guide genealogists in this respect. For the sake of brevity we will mention only two of these: *The Canadian Genealogical Handbook* by Eric Jonasson (Winnipeg, 1978) and *Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada* by Patricia Kennedy and Janine Roy (Ottawa, 1983). The latter is available free of charge from the Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N3. Jonasson's book is more comprehensive and can be bought at most larger book stores.

Listed below are provincial archives and genealogical societies which family historians may wish to contact. It should be emphasized, however, that these organizations are usually not able to conduct extensive research for individual inquiries.

Alberta:

Alberta Genealogical Society,
P.O. Box 12015,
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3L2

Provincial Archives of Alberta,
12845–102 Avenue,
Edmonton, Alberta
T5N 0M6

British Columbia:

British Columbia Genealogical Society,
Box 94371,
Richmond, B.C.
V6Y 2A8

Provincial Archives of British Columbia,
655 Belleville Street,
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

Manitoba:

Manitoba Genealogical Society,
P.O. Box 2066,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 3R4

Provincial Archives of Manitoba,
200 Vaughan Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0P8

New Brunswick:

New Brunswick Genealogical Society,
Box 3235, Station B,
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3A 2W0

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick,
P.O. Box 6000,
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5H1

Nova Scotia:

Genealogical Committee,
Nova Scotia Historical Society,
Box 865,
Middleton, N.S.
B0S 1P0

Public Archives of Nova Scotia,
6016 University Avenue,
Halifax, N.S.
B3H 1W4

Ontario:

Ontario Genealogical Society,
Box 66, Station Q,
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 2L7

Archives of Ontario,
77 Grenville Street,
Queen's Park,
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

Prince Edward Island:

Prince Edward Island Genealogical Society,
c/o PEI Heritage Foundation,
Box 922,
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
C1A 7L9

Public Archives of Prince Edward Island,
P.O. Box 7000,
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
C1A 7M4

Quebec:

The Quebec Family History Society,
Box 1926,
Pointe Claire P.O.
Pointe Claire, Québec
H9S 4H9

Société généalogique Canadienne-Française,
C.P. 335,
Place d'Armes,
Montréal, Québec
H2X 3H1

Archives Nationales du Québec,
C.P. 10450,
Sainte-Foy, Québec
G1V 4N1

Yukon:

Yukon Archives,
P.O. Box 2703,
Whitehorse, Y.T.
T1A 2C6

North West-Territories:

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre,
Department of Natural and Cultural Affairs,
Government of the North-West Territories,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9

For a more complete listing of archival institutions in Canada, please consult the *Directory of Canadian Archives* by Judith Beattie *et al.* (eds.) (Bureau of Canadian Archivists, 1981). A copy is available at both offices of the Saskatchewan Archives Board and at most major archives and libraries.

2. Foreign Sources

Before attempting to write to official repositories in the country of one's ancestry, some study should be made of the genealogical record sources there. The differences in record types and research practices from one country to the next are sometimes quite dramatic and the family historian should be aware of them. Experienced members of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society may be able to assist in this. Listed below are the addresses of principal genealogical societies in countries from which a large part of Saskatchewan's population emigrated. Also listed are some reference books which will be useful in learning of genealogical research techniques in those countries. Unfortunately, the problems in obtaining information from countries in Eastern Europe are sometimes very great. Often it is necessary to write to the embassy of the country in Canada and then to wait long periods of time before an official response is received.

Many records of genealogical value in other countries have been microfilmed by and are available through the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. (See page 5 for more information on their branch library in Saskatoon.)

Asia:

Spencer J. Palmer, *Studies in Asian Genealogy* (Provo, Utah, n.d.)

Austria:

Genealogisch-Heraldische Gesellschaft "Adler,"
Haarhof 41A,
1010 Wien,
AUSTRIA

Dagmar Senekovic, *The Handy Guide to Austrian Genealogical Records* (Logan, Utah, 1979)

Settlers from Nebraska, just arrived in Estevan, ca. 1900. Saskatchewan Archives Board, R-A9975.

England and Wales:

Society of Genealogists,
37 Harrington Gardens,
London SW 7
ENGLAND

David E. Gardner and Frank Smith, *Genealogical Research in England and Wales*. 3 vols. (Salt Lake City, 1966–1970)

Gerald Hamilton-Edwards, *In Search of British Ancestry* (Baltimore, 1974)

France:

Centre d'entr'aide Généalogique,
"Les Frenes 52"
55 boulevard de Charonne,
75011 Paris,
FRANCE

Jacques Meurgey de Tupigny, *Guide des Recherches Généalogiques aux Archives Nationales* (Paris, 1956)

Pierre Durye, *Genealogy: An Introduction to Continental Concepts* (New Orleans, 1977)

Germany:

Zentralstelle für Genealogie,
DDR-70 Leipzig,
Georgi-Dimitroff-Platz 1
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft genealogischer Verbande e.V.,
D-33 Braunschweig,
Steintorwall 15 (Stadtarchiv),
WEST GERMANY

Heinz Friedrichs, *How to Find My German Ancestors and Relatives* (Neustadt, West Germany, 1969)

J. Konrad, *German Family Research Made Simple*. 2nd ed. (Munroe Falls, Ohio, 1977)

Clifford Neal Smith and Anna Piszesan-Czaja Smith, *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research* (New York, 1976)

Hungary:

Jared H. Suess, *The Handy Guide to Hungarian Genealogical Records*, (Logan, Utah, 1980)

Iceland:

Eric Jonasson, *Tracing Your Icelandic Family Tree* (Winnipeg, 1975)

Ireland:

Irish Genealogical Research Society,
7A Duke of York Street,
St. James' Square,
London SW1Y 4LE
ENGLAND

Margaret Dickson Falley, *Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research*. 2 vols. (Evanston, Ill., 1961–1962)

Jews:

Dan Rottenberg, *Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy* (New York, 1977)

The Netherlands:

Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie,
Nassaulaan 18,
The Hague,
THE NETHERLANDS

W. Wijnaendts van Resandt, *Searching For Your Ancestors in the Netherlands* (The Hague, 1972)

Norway:

Norsk Slektshistorisk Forening,
Øvre Slottsgate 16,
Oslo, NORWAY

Jan H. Olstad and Gunvold Bøe, *How to Trace Your Ancestors in Norway* (Oslo, 1980)

Bent Vanberg, *So Deep Are My Roots* (Minneapolis, n.d.)

Maralyn A. Wellauer, *Tracing Your Norwegian Roots* (Milwaukee, 1979)

Poland:

Polish Genealogical Society,
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue,
Chicago, Ill., U.S.A. 60622

Mary Ann Boczon Ames, *How to Research Your Personal Polish Family History* (New Carrollton, Maryland, 1976)

Thaddeus J. Obal, *Genealogical Research Involving Polish Ancestry* (Hillsdale, New Jersey, 1978)

Scotland:

Scottish Genealogy Society,
21 Howard Place,
Edinburgh EH3 5JY
SCOTLAND

Gerald Hamilton-Edwards, *In Search of Scottish Ancestry* (Baltimore, 1972)

Sweden:

Genealogiska Foreningen,
Arkivgatan 3,
S–111 28 Stockholm,
SWEDEN

Nils William Olsson, *Tracing Your Swedish Ancestry* (Stockholm, 1965)

Carl-Erik Johansson, *Cradled in Sweden* (Logan, Utah, 1972)

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

Russian Historical and Genealogical Society,
971 First Avenue,
New York, N.Y., U.S.A. 10022

John-Paul Himka, *Ukrainian Origins* (Edmonton, 1981)

Frances Swyripa, *Canadian Sources for Researching Ukrainian Family Trees* (Edmonton, 1981)

*Both of the above leaflets are available from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton. They will appear in an updated version in 1983.

United States of America:

National Genealogical Society,
1921 Sunderland Place N.W.,
Washington, D.C., 20036
U.S.A.

Val D. Greenwood, *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy* (Baltimore, 1973)

Norman Edgar Wright, *Building an American Pedigree* (Provo, Utah, 1974)

Dora and Otto Zimmerman and their children in their farm home near Saskatoon, 1917. (Photo by Max Henne) Saskatchewan Archives Board, S-B7366.